The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretation of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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It is a strange desire to seek power and lose liberty.—Francis Bacon.

WHOLE NO. 1308 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, MAY 9, 1936 | FRANK MORRISON, Secretary-Treasurer | VOL. 26, NO. 19

Labor and Liberals Score Dictatorships

18,000 in New York Demonstration for Benefit of Victims of Persecution in Europe Hear Green, Woll and Einstein Denounce Nazism and Fascism As Enemies of Mankind.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

New York, N. Y.—The gigantic all-star benefit at Madison Square Garden here on May 3, organized by the Committee for Relief and Liberation of Victims of Persecution in Europe, in association with the Labor Chest and the Central Trades and Labor Council of Greater New York listened to strong denounciations by leading labor leaders and liberals of the organized conspiracy against freedom, liberty and other rights developed by the Nazi and Fascist dictatorships set up in Europe.

The major purpose of the demonstration was to raise a $50,000 fund to be used for the benefit of the thousands of victims of Nazism and Fascism in Europe.

In connection with the extensive musical and theatrical features of the meeting the vast throng, numbering more than 18,000, was addressed by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, and Matthew Woll, third vice president of the Federation. In addition a stirring message from Professor Albert Einstein, himself an exile from Nazi Germany, was presented to the audience.

Joseph P. Ryan, president of the Central Trades and Labor Council, and Mr. Woll were point chairmen of the meeting.

Relief for All Victims of Persecution

Mr. Woll told the vast audience that although the demonstration had been organized by the American Federation of Labor it was in no sense a labor gathering, though it was perhaps "the greatest demonstration of its kind ever undertaken by American labor," adding:

"The purpose of this meeting is relief of Europe's dictatorships. We are equally interested in all victims of persecution entirely regardless of religion, race or social class.

"This meeting is only a part of a much larger demonstration in which nearly every element of the population in this city is participating. For all the hundreds of churches of New York City, Catholic, Protestant and Jewish, have given utterance today of practically the same prayer for the persecuted and refugees of the world.

"This prayer is uttered for the victims of arbitrary injustice, racial pride, godlessness, malice and hatred in all counries and it expresses the hope that it will lead to a widespread movement for the relief of the victims of this persecution from the entire people of the United States."

Green Emphasizes Freedom

Mr. Green pointed out that the Labor Chest for the Relief and Liberation of Workers of Europe was organized by officers of the American Federation of Labor and the presidents of some of the larger A. F. of L. unions, and is unanimously endorsed by the Federation. He said "every genuine labor organization of any importance in every country in the world is participating in the work of relief and liberation" espoused by the Labor Chest and that the A. F. of L. is cooperating closely with the International Federation of Trade Unions in this work.

Emphasizing the principle that although American labor is not "engaged primarily in the work of world-wide philanthropy," but that when the inherent rights of humanity are attacked "we have not been and are not isolated from the rest of the world," Mr. Green continued:

"When freedom of speech is abridged in one country it becomes endangered in other countries.

"When freedom of assemblage is suppressed in one country it cannot but be menaced elsewhere.

"When freedom of worship is challenged in one country, it is only a matter of time before the challenge sweeps round the world.

"When the freedom of the press is endangered elsewhere—and by this I mean freedom to print the truth—its basis is less secure in our own country.

"Without these: a free press, the right to worship when and where we choose, the right to come together for a common good as illustrated in our meeting here tonight, and the right to say what we believe without the danger of being thrown into concentration camps—without these there can be no freedom.

"This is what we believe—and we have the courage of our convictions. As I have shown we have not merely a philanthropic interest in the oppressed workers of Europe, but we are doing everything we can to organize the opinion of mankind against persecution of whatever kind. We not only expose these persecutions in all the publications of our labor movement, but we take other and still more active measures to try to bring the persecution to an end."

Political Rights Threatened

Professor Einstein declared that under the sway of existing European dictatorships "all the political rights which our forefathers have won after innumerable struggles and sacrifices are threatened today by reaction and tyranny. At such a time any attempt toward united international cooperation of the laboring masses the world over awakens a justified hope for a better future.

"Only truly international cooperation of labor with clearly defined and just aims can save the workers from the inevitable fate of falling victims to glittering nationalist slogans which under the pretext of patriotism have fooled them so often.

"A policy given solely to the preservation of vested interests must necessarily lead to disunity and weakness. Only by unselfishly serving these great common ideals can the masses gain that unity and power which they need for the establishment of security and a healthy economic basis. We must reach this goal; there is no other way toward economic health in an era which is characterized by an almost limitless capacity for production.

"In this spirit I extend my most cordial and sincere greetings to your great gathering and hope that your noble efforts will meet with every success."

EDITORIALS

THE PLUNDERED POOR

Edwin Markham, the 84-year-old author of "The Man With the Hoe," in an address before a recent mass meeting of working men and women in New York City, read from his poems the following quatrain, entitled "The Third Wonder":

"'Two things,' said Kant, 'fill me with breathless awe:
The starry heaven and the moral law.'
"But I know a thing more awful and secure—
The long, long patience of the plundered poor."

The patience mentioned by Mr. Markham has characterized millions of unemployed men and women in the United States who have been plundered of their right to work and consigned against their will to the jobless army and kept there on near-starvation rations for year after year, many of them compelled to see their children suffer the pangs of malnutrition.

Of course this patience can be exhausted. This possibility was suggested by President William Green of the American Federation of Labor in his last statement on unemployment which showed that at least 12,184,000 able-bodied adults are still without jobs in industry. Stressing the absolute social necessity of finding a way "to put these millions to work producing the goods they need for a decent living," Mr. Green said:

"America cannot dodge this problem. Business men in the past have allowed the Government to deal with it by giving work relief at relief wages.

"If this policy is continued with refusal to face the problem, it will be well to remember that millions of American citizens will not indefinitely submit to enforced poverty and public support in an age when industry is equipped to supply them with a comfort level of living."

Edwin Markham evidently had the same idea in mind when, in his poem, "The Right to Work," he said:

"And the right of a man to labor, and his right to labor in joy,
Not all your laws can strangle that right nor the gates of Hell destroy;
For it came with the making of man and kneaded into his bones,
And it will stand at the last of things on the dust of crumbled thrones."

WAGE FIXING

There is considerable talk going the rounds among business leaders and economists about wage fixing ending the competitive system of production. This charge is aimed at the demand of organized labor and a number of other progressive groups for the enactment of Federal legislation authorizing the establishment of minimum wage rates below which it will be illegal for sweatshop employers to drive the pay of their employes.

To say that such a humane regulation would destroy the competitive system is nothing but tommyrot. For years Australia and New Zealand have applied "basic" wage rates to industry. "Basic" rates are the lowest rates employers are permitted to pay. The same system has been applied to certain groups of workers in Canada and Great Britain. But in all of these countries the competitive system of production, with large profits for the owners of industry, has continued to operate.

To say that the power of employers to reduce wages to starvation levels is an essential element in our system of production is to admit that the system is not only uncivilized but uncivilizable and wholly unwarranted in a country dedicated, in the language of the Declaration of Independence, to the commendable object of securing for all our people, including working men and women the "unalienable rights" of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

INTERNATIONAL PEACE

The importance of working men and women everywhere using their influence to have disputes between nations settled by international arbitration was emphasized by Herbert Morrison, British Labor leader and president of the London County Council, in an address before a large audience of workers in New York City just before his departure for Great Britain after a short lecture tour in the United States.

Contending that governments are not doing all they could for the cause of peace, Mr. Morrison said:

"The greatest guaranty of peace today is the unity, the solidarity of the working classes of the world. Workers have no quarrel with each other. They have no conflict of interests. They should not go to war merely in defense of the rivalries of capitalist powers and capitalist trade."

Mr. Morrison also advocated the reference of all difficulties between nations "to an international tribunal where they could be settled by conciliation and arbitration."

The settlement of international disputes by arbitration was recommended by the American Federation of Labor 50 years ago and has been its policy ever since. In a resolution favoring arbitration as a substitute for war the convention of the Federation held in 1887 declared that "the demands of the working people will never be fully heard in all their strength and nobility of aspiration until the nations of the world mutually agree to refrain from the fratricidal strife that has so often brought misery and desolation into many millions of happy homes." The convention added that inasmuch as the workers always have "to bear the brunt of war" they take "the most profound interest in the establishment and maintenance of peace."

In 1898 the A. F. of L. favored disarmament as an approach to "the international brotherhood of man when the wars of the nations shall be a thing of the past, and the song of the poet, the dream of the philosopher, and the hope of the philanthropist and humanitarian may be achieved."

In 1909 the A. F. of L. convention declared that "war which forces man to kill his fellowman, war by which the many are forced to sacrifice their lives to gratify the passions of the few, is repugnant to the concepts of our civilization."

In 1921, in supporting the cause of disarmament and international peace, the convention of the Federation said: "The working people, the masses of the world population, can end wars if they but have the independence to think and to give their convictions reality by daring to do."

Later conventions have reaffirmed the opposition of the American Federation of Labor to war and its support of arbitration.

These consistent and persistent declarations demonstrate beyond a doubt the validity of organized labor's principle that preserving the lives of men, women and children from the devastation of war should be the supreme objective of all citizens in every country in the world and their governments.

Kokomo Central Labor Union Secures Repeal of Anti-Picketing Ordinance

City Council Passed Measure in 1935 to Fight Strike of Operative Potters

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Kokomo, Ind.—Organized labor in Kokomo represented by the Trades and Labor Council won its long fight to protect the rights of the workers by the action of the City Council in repealing the notorious anti-picketing ordinance, which was placed on the municipal statute books here in 1935 as a measure to fight the members of the National Brotherhood of Operative Potters in their strike against the Kokomo Sanitary Pottery Company.

By thorough picketing the plant was tied up for several months. Then the Mayor of Kokomo issued orders to the police that picketing was not to be permitted. The strikers challenged the legal validity or the order and continued effective picketing of the plant. Led by the Mayor, the City Council in special session enacted the ordinance forbidding any sort of picketing in Kokomo.

Determined to test the constitutionality of the ordinance as in conflict with the State law permitting peaceful picketing, the Potters violated it with the result that 40 or 50 of them were placed under arrest.

The ordinance was recognized as such a complete violation of the rights of the workers that the action of the Potters' Brotherhood in challenging its constitutionality was supported by the Indiana State Federation of Labor and by President William Green of the American Federation of Labor, who in a letter to the national and international unions on January 9, 1936, requested financial assistance to enable the Brotherhood in the legal procedure necessary to fight the case in the courts.

The Kokomo Trades and Labor Council believe that their success in having the City Council repeal the anti-picketing ordinance will stimulate organized labor in other cities in their efforts to have similar measures removed from the statute books.

St. Louis Union Industrial Exposition Opened to Manufacturers of Union Goods

By A. F. of L. News Service.

St. Louis, Mo.—The forthcoming Union Industrial Exposition here, organized by the St. Louis Union Label Trades Section, affiliated with the Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor and the St. Louis Trades and Labor Union, for the advertisement of the union label, shop card and working button will be extended to include manufacturers of union goods.

"Our past expositions were open only to unions," declared the Union Label Trades Section. "The manufacturers could display in the booths of the union with which they had a contractual agreement, but the manufacturers could not rent booths. Our present plan allows manufacturers to rent booths, provided said manufacturers are not on the unfair list of the Central Trades, and provided also that the manufacturers have a contract with the union recognized by the American Federation of Labor."

Invitation to Manufacturers

The statement sent to union manufacturers by the Union Label Trades Section announcing the scope of the exposition under the new policy and inclosing a plan of the booths follows:

"The St. Louis Union Label Trades Section has decided to hold a gigantic Union Industrial Exposition in St. Louis from October 27 to November 1, inclusive. It will be held at the Municipal Auditorium and will be open for six days from 2 P. M. to 11 P. M. each day. You are listed as a union manufacturer in the Union Label Directory, hence we are informing you of this Exposition. Only unions and union manufacturers will be allowed to rent booths. That is your advantage—no non-union competitor of yours will be allowed to advertise at the Exposition. If you desire, you will be allowed to sell and merchandise your products.

"There are between two hundred and two hundred and fifty thousand union people in St. Louis. Every Exposition at the beautiful Municipal Auditorium attracts about 50,000 persons. The ordinary attendances and a percentage of the union people will give you a great market for your advertising or for your selling. The Municipal Auditorium is known throughout the United States and is an attraction in itself.

Wide Publicity Planned

"Attendance will be attracted by the distribution of complimentary tickets from every union store in the vicinity, by the featured professional entertainment, which will include a popular orchestra. The Exposition will be advertised in the neighborhood newspapers, the daily papers and the labor journals, as well as on the radio. Hundreds of valuable attendance prizes will be given away. Every international union publication will publicize the event. Speakers will address every local union meeting.

"We will furnish booths, sign and a special outlet to each booth in addition to regular light, heat, air conditioning and janitor service. The prices of booths vary as designated on the plan. Each booth will be 10 feet square (100 square feet). More than one booth may be rented. The overhead and general lighting is ample. All booths are on one floor. A variety of aisles, entrances and exits guarantee circulation and visitation of every section of the exhibits. Any further information desired will be furnished. Please reply as soon as possible."

MISS PERKINS SEEKING WAY TO CURB SILICOSIS

Secretary of Labor Names Four Committees to Study Disease to Which, She Says, 500,000 Workers Are Exposed.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins announced the appointment of four committees composed of 53 persons to work out plans for preventing silicosis, the dread occupational disease for which medical science has found no cure. The committees include health experts, representatives of technical societies and engineers, insurance companies, employers, workers and Government. The establishment of the committees grew out of a national conference recently held by Miss Perkins in Washington to discuss the silicosis menace.

They will approach the problem from four different angles:

From the medical angle they will attempt to catch the disease in incipient stages and undertake to fight it to a standstill.

Under engineering control the specialists will endeavor to develop methods of equipping plants subject to silica dust with adequate apparatus to prevent outbreak of the disease.

In connection with the economic, legal and insurance phases attention will be given to the cost of silicosis to industry because of claims and the cost of combatting it.

The regulatory and administrative aspects of silicosis prevention will include regulations to govern plants liable to development of the disease.

Half Million Exposed

Miss Perkins pointed out that according to reliable estimates 500,000 workers in quarries, foundries, mines, glass works and other industries where silica dust may be inhaled are exposed to the disease.

"The fact that it has been prevented in certain industries where there is exposure," said Miss Perkins, "is sufficient grounds for making us believe that it can be successfully combatted in practically all the industries and that every effort should be made to study the particular needs and problems of those industries so as to devise ways suitable for the control of the disease.

"The technique of silicosis prevention lies in keeping the dust from getting into the air which workers breathe. This can be done by different types of ventilation—not necessarily general ventilation—but specialized control and collection of dust at the point of origin so that it does not escape into the workroom."

Heads of the four silicosis committees are: Medical, Surgeon R. R. Sayers, U. S. Public Health Service; engineering, Warren A. Cook, State Department of Health, Hartford, Conn.; economic, legal and insurance, V. P. Ahearn, Washington; regulatory and administrative, L. Metcalfe Walling, Labor Commissioner, Providence, R. I.

TITTERTON MURDERER NOT UNION UPHOLSTERER

President Hatch of Upholsterers' Union Urges Patronage of Union Labor Firms as Method of Securing Trustworthy Workers.

New York, N. Y. (AFLNS).—John Fiorenza, the upholsterer who confessed that he murdered Mrs. Nancy E. Titterton, 34-year-old author and book reviewer, who was found dead in the bathtub of her home here a number of weeks ago, was not a union upholsterer, according to a statement by James H. Hatch, president of the Upholsterers' International Union of North America, who declared that organized upholsterers have irreproachable reputations and should always be employed by those desiring reliable workers.

"The publicity attending the solution of the murder of Nancy Evans Titterton," Mr. Hatch said, "unduly stresses the point that the slayer, John Fiorenza, was an upholsterer, and the execution of the crime by him was facilitated by the fact that be obtained entry to the Titterton apartment on the pretext that he was pursuing his work as an upholsterer.

"Since this unfortunate angle of the Titterton case is bound to make a deep impression upon the reading public and consequently may have an adverse effect upon the livelihood of thousands of decent and respectable citizens pursuing the upholstering trade, who in the pursuit of their trade are frequently called upon to work in private homes, the Upholsterers, Carpet and Linoleum Mechanics' International Union wishes to reassure the public that John Fiorenza was in no wise connected with the organized upholsterers, nor ever has been.

"One of the object lessons of the regrettable Titterton tragedy is that those requiring the services of upholsterers and interior decorators should make it a point to patronize the responsible upholstering and interior decorating firms, who, aware of this responsibility in sending their employes into private homes, not only require exceptional skill from the men and women who work for them but in addition are careful to employ working men and women whose characters are above reproach. In order to safeguard themselves and their customers in this regard, these firms for many years have employed members of our international union, for the reason that these employers know well that the union is careful in the selection of its membership.

"Non-union firms have no such standards in respect to the employment of mechanics. Such firms are solely interested in the employment of cheap labor, and on that account cannot be particular about the type of individuals they employ.

"I point with pride to the record of our organization, which has been in existence for 50 years. During this time its members have been assigned to work in private homes, and there is not a single instance where any union upholsterer has been unfaithful to his trust. There is no record of any crime, not even petty larceny, not to speak of murder in which any member of our organization has been involved. So, I would urge the general public to disregard the fact that John Fiorenza is labeled as an upholsterer. At best he was probably a general handy man."

Land for Peasants in Paraguay

According to information received from Paraguay, President Raphael Franco has signed a land distribution law providing for the allotment of 4,000,000 acres of idle land in small lots to 70,000 peasants. The Government will take the land by expropriation from the owners, who will be reimbursed.

Agreement Reached In Hard Coal Dispute

Present Wage Scale Kept—Seven-Hour Day Granted—Stabilization Commission Established.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

New York, N. Y.—The strike of over 100,000 anthracite miners was definitely averted when officials of the United Mine Workers of America obtained definite concessions from mine operators in the vast hard coal fields of eastern Pennsylvania.

The new agreement was reached after a three months' conference which failed to harmonize the differencies up to May 1, when as the result of the deadlock a strike was scheduled to take place. Negotiations were renewed at the request of Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins, and finally a compromise a compromise agreement was reached.

Following is a summary of the new agreement:

1. Present wage rates will be continued for two years. Originally the miners asked a substantial increase in wages while the operators demanded a reduction.
2. The contract will last for two years. Originally the operators demanded a five-year contract.
3. The operators agreed to a more complete "check off" system of collecting union dues and assessments.
4. The union demanded a six-day, 30-hour week. The new agreement provides the seven-hour day to become effective during the second year of the contract, contingent upon the elimination of the bootleg coal racket which it was alleged costs the coal operators $4,000,000 annually.

It was stated that the agreement also provides for some form of equalizing work. The miners held that this would bring about the re-employment of 40,000 men.

The new contract also included a provision for the establishment of a joint commission of operators and miners for the stabilization of the anthracite industry.

COLLERAN RECOMMENDS FEDERAL HOUSING BILL

Plasterers' Union President Visions Wagner-Ellenbogen $876,000,000 Measure As Beginning of Long-Range Public Works Planning.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Complete support of the Wagner-Ellenbogen Federal Housing Bill was given by M. J. Colleran, president of the Operative Plasterers' International Association of the United States and Canada and a member of the A. F. of L. Housing Committee, in a statement before the Senate Committee on Education and Labor during the hearings on the measure.

By a combination of appropriations and loans the bill authorizes the expenditure of $876,000,000 during the next few years to aid in the construction of houses for the use of people whose low income makes it impossible for them to purchase or rent houses built by private industry. It sets up a Government authority with power to lend local governmental housing units up to 55 per cent of the cost of low-cost housing and slum-clearance units approved by the authority and to make grants of 45 per cent.

Mr. Colleran emphasized the principle of long-range planning for public works construction which he saw as one of the features of the bill.

Unemployment Remedy

"The idea that public or public-aided construction is a major weapon of any modern government against employment and depression has been generally recognized for so long that I do not need to dwell on it," he said. "That such construction ought to be planned and timed in order to provide a cushion of employment when most needed has likewise been a matter of general agreement. But in spite of all the talk, and in spite of the large sums actually spent on public works construction during the past four years by various temporary Federal agencies, no permanent machinery has been set up which could plan out a long-range future program of construction."

The principle of long-range planning of public works was traced by Mr. Colleran from 1921, when former Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover as chairman of a Committee on Unemployment presented a report on this subject to former President Harding recommending the appointment of a committee to develop a plan for a long-range program of public works to offset future depressions. The committee did not function. From that date to the present, Mr. Colleran said, various measures have come before Congress and received sympathetic consideration by the American Federation of Labor, but none of them reached the realm of practicability until the Wagner-Ellenbogen Bill was drafted.

Low-Rent Houses Held Necessary

Emphasizing the "social necessity" of constructing houses at a cost that will make them available for low-income groups, Mr. Colleran said that, "properly administered, a low rent housing program in no way competes with legitimate private construction enterprise," adding: "In boom years, when private enterprise is employing most of the building workers and there is an adequate supply of dwellings, the construction of publicly assisted housing for low-income families can be temporarily curtailed."

Speaking for both the Operative Plasterers' Association and the A. F. of L. Housing Committee, Mr. Colleran said in conclusion:

"We heartily approve and pray for the passage of this housing bill for the following reasons: first, its potentialities toward the relief of unemployment; second, its long-range planning effects, which will stabilize employment; third, its slum clearance, which will eradicate sickness and pestilence, which in turn will lessen crime, and, finally, because this is the 'big push' that was needed to end depression.

"We recommend, in accordance with the provisions for the setting up of an independent, permanent, United States Housing Authority, that the Senate Committee on Education and Labor and the Congress give serious consideration that the personnel of the Authority shall be composed with at least one representative from the ranks of labor who is thoroughly qualified and familiar with the construction industry."

FEDERAL HOUSING BILL GETS ROOSEVELT'S O. K.

Agreement Reached on Major Points on $876,000,000 Program to Provide Low Cost Houses for Small Income Groups.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—President Roosevelt announced that an agreement had finally been reached on the major points of a new Federal housing program for the benefit of low-income groups and expressed the hope that the measure would be enacted into law during the present session of Congress.

The President indicated that the basis for discussion was the $876,000,000 bill sponsored by Senator Wagner of New York, which provides for a four-year program of loans and grants to local housing bodies for the construction of homes and for slum clearance in the interest of people whose annual income is so small that they are prevented from purchasing houses or renting housing accommodations built under the usual procedure of private industry.

According to figures prepared by Senator Wagner at least ten million houses for these low-income groups will be required during the next few years. The Wagner bill sets up a Federal housing authority with power to lend local governmental units 55 per cent of the cost of approved low-cost housing and slum-clearance units and to make grants of 45 per cent.

The Chief Executive said he believed complete agreement would be reached among the legislative and administrative officials for a considerable time, and added that only details relating to financing and administration remained to be settled.

President William Green of the American Federation of Labor informed President Roosevelt that the Federation was "wholeheartedly" in favor of the Wagner bill.

He said the bill was "sufficiently flexible to permit application of any plan in a community" and spoke in high terms of the section of the measure which provides minimum wage and hours standards and protects the workers against "kick-back" penalties which were frequently imposed on employes by employers as the price of jobs until the practice was prohibited by statute law.

HIGHER WAGES FOR WOMEN URGED BY MISS ANDERSON

Women's Bureau Chief Warns Trade Union League of Double Pay Standard Danger.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—The double wage standard—one set of pay rates for men and a lower set for women—was denounced by Miss Mary Anderson, Director of the Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor, as a "two-edged sword cutting into our modern economic fabric," in an address before the convention of the National Women's Trade Union League here.

"Most women who seek employment are driven by the necessity of earning a living and are also contributing to the support of dependents, many being the sole wage earner of the family," Miss Anderson said.

"If women can be hired for less pay, men are in danger of having to accept wage cuts or of being forced out of jobs. Because so many men earn too little to support their families—and this is a reflection not on the men but on our economic system—many married women are forced into gainful employment. Or if a family must depend entirely upon a lower-paid woman breadwinner because the man cannot get work, this means a lowered standard of living for the family."

As essential elements of the recovery program Miss Anderson urged a uniform minimum wage and shorter hour legislation in all States and much greater interest in organization of women in trade unions.

Mrs. Roosevelt in a short talk to the delegates admonished the trades unionists to promote still further organization of women and declared that the arguments against women in trade unions were "unintelligent."

SEAMEN REJECT STRIKE SETTLEMENT PROPOSAL

Union Leaders Refuse to Submit New Wage Contract to Referendum

New York, N. Y. (AFLNS).—The Executive Board of the International Seamen's Union rejected the proposal drawn up by Supreme Court Justice William Harmon Black here for settling the outlaw strike participated in by certain members of the union. The proposal suggested as a basis for the settlement that the wage contract for Atlantic Coast seamen recently made in March by union officials with 36 steamship lines be submitted to a referendum vote of the members.

The 11 members of the Executive Board, residing on both coasts, the Gulf and Great Lakes, in telephone messages to the international headquarters of the union in Chicago rejected the referendum proposal. Ivan Hunter, secretary-treasurer of the international union, in a telegram from Chicago to local union officials here said that the proposed referendum would be in effect a strike vote. He declared it was the view of international union officials that all agreements with employers must be strictly adhered to, and that the present agreement which had been in effect for several weeks cannot be abrogated.

Mr. Hunter charged that the proposed referendum on the wage agreement was part of a plan of Communist agitators within the union.

"Their purpose," he said, "is to get the Atlantic and Gulf Coast into turmoil within the next 60 days and then cause agitation on the West Coast for the purpose of bringing about a termination of the agreements there on September 30. This is exactly in line with the announcement with Darcey, the California Communist delegate at the Moscow convention last July. The definite purpose is to destroy the International Seamen's Union and substitute a Communist-controlled organization in its place."

Women Workers Held Greatest Sufferers From Abolition of NRA Code Standards

Employers Have Increased Average Work Week Three Hours and Frequently Cut Wages During Past Year, President Green Tells Convention of Women's Trade Union League.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—The edict of the United States Supreme Court holding unconstitutional the National Industrial Recovery Act under which NRA code standards were established in industry hit women workers harder than any other group, William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, declared in addressing the convention of the National Women's Trade Union League of America here.

He also presented reliable data showing that the return of child labor and resumption of home work since the end of the NRA have been most extensive and more directly responsible in depressing labor standards throughout industry.

On the subject of hours and wages following the abolition of the NRA codes, Mr. Green said:

"The lengthening of hours in industry since May, 1935, when NRA was invalidated, resulted in the increase of the average work week in the course of seven months by three hours. Most of this additional work has been added without the corresponding wage compensation and often while hours were increased wages were cut. Thus the departure from code standards meant not only longer hours for the workers but also a drastic wage loss. More than that, the lengthening of hours made it impossible for the industry to absorb in the process of current recovery those who are now among the unemployed.

70-Hour Week in Cotton Industry

"In many of the industries in which the NRA labor standards have almost completely collapsed women constitute the majority of the employes.

"In the cotton garment industry, for example, and in the silk textile industry, where the code standards were wiped out soon after the invalidation of the NRA, many women workers have suffered not only a drastic reduction in their weekly wages, but at the same time have been forced to work as long as 60 and 70 hours a week.

"In the hosiery industry, where a large number of additional departures from code standards are reported this Spring, intolerable work loads together with lengthened hours and reduced wages have been reported.

"In the textile industry generally, we find that even in those plants where wage minima have been maintained, the speed-up has been such as to make many women workers physically incapable of handling the load.

Women's Work Standards Lowered

"In the retail trades, where women workers constitute a major portion of the employes, code standards have been almost universally abandoned.

"In looking at the post-NRA situation as a whole, it would not be an exaggeration to say that women workers have been hardest hit by the abandonment of the code standards. Those who have remained in employment have their hours lengthened and wages cut, and those who are now unemployed have been deprived of their opportunity for re-employment.

"I will give you a few illustrations of the lowering of standards in the work done by women in different types of industries. These illustrations have been chosen not at random, not from any plant where there might be no direct connection with supervision by the Federal Government under the present conditions, but from establishments which furnished their products to the Federal Government under contract.

10 Cents an Hour Wages

"A large knit underwear mill in Tennessee employs 1,200 women and 500 men. This firm maintained a weekly code minimum rate of $12 through December, 1935, but raised its working daily hours to 10 and weekly hours to 57 for women. This firm handled during that time a large order for the CCC and forced its workers to work at break-neck pace to have the order filled as rapidly and as cheaply as possible.

"A shirt factory in Maryland working under a Government contract was paying in August, 1935, as low as 10 cents an hour with most of the women employes receiving only two or three dollars a week for 52 hours of work.

"In July, 1935, a garment factory in Pennsylvania working on a Government contract employed the girls from 8 A. M. to 6 P. M., which were the standard hours, but most of the time kept them as late as 8 P. M. The girls were paid as low as $3 a week for this time and refusal to work until 8 P. M. meant loss of the job."

W. M. COLLINS, RAILWAY MAIL PRESIDENT, DIES

Washington, D. C. (AFLNS).—William M. Collins, president of the Railway Mail Association since 1921, died in Emergency Hospital here on May 5. He underwent a major operation on April 22 and appeared to be recovering, but succumbed to a heart attack. His age was 60.

Funeral services were held at the Hines Funeral Home on May 7 at 1:30 P. M., where the body lie in state two hours prior to the services. The body was taken to Madison, Wis., for interment, additional funeral services being held there at the First Presbyterian Church on May 9.

Prior to 1918, when Mr. Collins was elected industrial secretary of the Railway Mail Association and came to Washington to fill that position, he had resided at Madison, Wis., for many years. He served as secretary until 1921, when he was elected national president of his organization. Since that time he took a prominent part in legislation for welfare of the postal workers. He was born at Verona, Wis., April 23, 1876.

He was a life member of the Congressional Country Club here and during the past two years had served on its board of governors. He belonged to a number of Masonic organizations, including the Scottish Rite and the Eastern Star.

Surviving are his wife, Lavisa M. Collins; two sons; one brother, G. Fred Collins of Minneapolis, Minn., and one sister, Mrs. Floyd Miller of Madison, Wis.